William O Stoddard Collection

Finding Aid

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WILLIAM O. STODDARD COLLECTION
1 folder (filed in the Lincoln's Secretaries Collection); other items located as indicated

Biographical Note

William Osborn Stoddard (1835-1925) was born in Homer, New York, the son of Sarah Ann Osborn and Prentice Samuel Stoddard, and grew up in Homer and Syracuse. He attended Rochester University before moving to Illinois in 1857 and received his B.A. in absentia in 1858. As editor of West Urbana's Republican newspaper, he began promoting Lincoln's presidential candidacy in 1859. After Lincoln was elected, Stoddard hoped his support might gain him a position on the president's staff. Instead he received an appointment as a clerk in the Interior Department. Some time later he was transferred to the White House as an assistant to the president's secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay.

Lincoln appointed Stoddard United States Marshall for the Eastern District of Arkansas in 1864, with instructions—according to Stoddard, who held Radical views on Reconstruction policy—to assure suffrage for the freedmen. He soon concluded, however, that Union military weakness in Arkansas made a "healthy state government" impossible. Ill with malaria and dysentery, he resigned his post in 1866 and settled in New York City.

After leaving public service, Stoddard became a businessman, inventor, and writer. In all, he wrote over a hundred books for children and adults. His *Inside the White House in War Times* (1890) provides an insider's view of the wartime administration.

Source: Mark E. Neely, Jr., *The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia* (New York: De Capo Press, 1982); Stoddard Collection "Autobiographical Sketch" (typescript); Eleanor Stoddard correspondence, 2009.

Scope and Content

The William O. Stoddard Collection was donated to Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in 1988, with an addition in 2009, by Stoddard's granddaughter, Eleanor Stoddard of Chevy Chase, Maryland. It comprises the following items:

The document appointing Stoddard Marshall of the United States for the Eastern District of Arkansas; signed by Abraham Lincoln and William Henry Seward
Foldered with oversize Lincoln autograph documents

6 photographs: 3 carte-de-visites of Stoddard (age 25, signed by Stoddard), Lincoln (inscribed on verso by Stoddard), and Mary Todd Lincoln; 3 cabinet cards of Mary Todd Lincoln (inscribed by Stoddard), Andrew Dickson White, and Stoddard (in 1911, signed by Stoddard)
Filed in Lincoln National Collection photographs; marked as Stoddard Collection

43 books: 42 written by Stoddard (see list below), 41 of which are inscribed and signed by him, and a copy of *Lincoln's Third Secretary: The Memoirs of William O. Stoddard*, edited and signed by William O. Stoddard, Jr.
Cataloged and shelved in the book stacks

A 2-volume signed typescript of *Recollections of a Checkered Life*, Stoddard's autobiography written for his children in 1907. It is one of two existing copies bound for the Stoddard family and was donated by Eleanor Stoddard in 2009.
Cataloged and shelved with Lincolniana

4 newspaper clippings on Stoddard and a photocopy of Stoddard's "Autobiographical Sketch" dated 1908
Filed in the Lincoln's Secretaries Collection in the folder "William O. Stoddard Collection"

Supplemental research material provided by Eleanor Stoddard: University of Rochester letter confirming William O. Stoddard's receipt of B.A. and M.A. degrees; notes form the Washington, D.C., city directory listings 1862-64 related to Stoddard; and a chronology/index of Stoddard's life drawn from *Recollections of a Checkered Life*, volume I.
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Books by William O. Stoddard

The Windfall	D. Appleton	1896
Success Against Odds	D. Appleton	1898
With the Black Prince	D. Appleton	1898
The Boy Lincoln	D. Appleton	1905
The Red Patriot: A Story of the American Revolution	D. Appleton	1909
Little Smoke: A Tale of the Sioux	D. Appleton	1910
Crowded Out O' Crofield	D. Appleton	1912
On the Old Frontier	D. Appleton	1912
The Fight for the Valley	D. Appleton	1912
Chuck Purdy	Lothrop	1891
Guert Ten Eyck	Lothrop	1893
Jack Morgan, A Boy of 1812	Lothrop	1901
The Errand Boy of Andrew Jackson	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1902
Ahead of the Army	Lothrop	1903
Two Cadets of Washington (2 copies)	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1906
The Talking Leaves	Harper & Bros.	1882
Two Arrows (2 copies)	Harper & Bros.	1886
In the Open	Harper & Bros.	1908
Chumley's Post: A Story of the Pawnee Trail	Lippincott	1895
The Lost Gold of the Monezumas	Lippincott	1898
Longshore Boys	Lippincott	1909

The First Cruises Out	Herbert Stone & Co.	1898
Running the Cuban Blockade	Herbert Stone & Co.	1899
Captain Jack	Herbert Stone & Co.	1899
The Boy Wreckers	Herbert Stone & Co.	1899
The Swordmaker's Son	Century Co.	1896
The White Cave	Century Co.	1920
Boys of Bunker Academy	Geo. W. Jacobs & Co.	1902
The Village Champion	Geo. W. Jacobs & Co.	1903
Dab Kinzer: A Story of a Growing Boy	Scribner	1920
The Quartet (A Sequel to Dab Kinzer	Scribner	1919
Verses of Many Days (2 copies)	Jas. Miller	1875
Wrecked?	White, Stokes & Allen	1883
The Volcano Under the City	Fords, Howard & Hulbert	1887
Inside the White House in War Times	Chas. L Webster	1892
Tom and the Money King	Price-McGill Co.	1893
The Wreck of the Sea Lion	Penn Pub. Co.	1894
Walled In: A True Story of Randall's Island	Fleming H. Rewell Co.	1897
Ulrick the Jarl	London: Chas. H. Kelly	1899
Ned, The Son of Web: What He Did	Dana Estes & Co.	1900
Montanye, or the Slavers of Old New York	Henry Altemus Co.	1901

Jane E. Gastineau, 2009; revised 2013

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